



**JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY
December 11, 2014
Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building**

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety met on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 1:00 PM. The meeting was held in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Representatives Hurley, Burr, Daughtry, Faircloth, C. Graham, McNeill, Stevens, Turner, Jordan, Speciale and Senators Newton, Allran, Bingham, Brown, Daniel, Lee, Randleman and Soucek.

Representative Pat Hurley presided and called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Chairman Hurley introduced the Sergeant-at-Arms present and asked Senator Newton if he had anything thing he would like to say.

Chairman Hurley spoke about her time served as Chair on the Mental Health Committee and how when she first ran for this office two of the many issues she heard about was mental health and testing in our schools. She realizes how important mental health is and we all know there are problems in our hospitals and with people needing training in order to know what to do when they come in contact with someone that is suffering from some form of mental illness. Today we are going to have speakers on these issues.

Chairman Hurley recognized David Guice, Commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Commissioner Guice spoke of the importance of the mental health issues in the prison system to him and staff. Secretary Perry could not be here today however, he wanted to relay how important this topic is to the department. This issue is a national issue, not just North Carolina. The Department needs to do things different than in the past. Changes need to take place immediately.

Representative McNeill moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Representative Daughtry. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Hurley introduced Terri Catlett, Deputy Director of Health Services, North Carolina Department of Public Safety Prisons to come forward. Ms. Catlett gave a PowerPoint presentation on Mental Health Services in the Prisons (see Attachment 1). Ms. Catlett asked Kenneth Lassiter to be recognized to present some of her presentation and he was recognized by the Chair as the Deputy Director of Operations, North Carolina Department of Public Safety Prisons. After Mr. Lassiter completed his part of the presentation, Ms. Catlett finished up the



remainder the PowerPoint presentation. Chairman Hurley opened the floor for questions and discussion from the members of the committee.

Chairman Hurley introduced Anne Precythe, Director of Community Corrections, North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Ms. Precythe provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment 2) on the mental health needs, assessments and training within the prison system. The floor was opened for questions and discussion from members of the committee.

Chairman Hurley called on Eddie Caldwell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, North Carolina Sheriffs' Association to speak on Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in County Jails. Mr. Caldwell had a handout (see Attachment 3) with a County breakdown on the Number of Counties Reporting, Number of Jails Reporting, the Inmate Population, Number of Inmates with Mental Illness and Number of Inmates with Substance Abuse. He stated that not all counties reported and some of the information might not correct as it was submitted. Chairman Hurley opened the floor for questions and comments from the committee members.

Chairman Hurley recognized Elizabeth Forbes, Director, NC CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants). Ms. Forbes provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation entitled When Mental Illness Goes to Prison (see Attachment 4). Ms. Forbes also had handouts (see Attachment 5) which were miscellaneous letters from inmates, an attorney, herself and a parent of an inmate, all discussing the treatment of mentally ill inmates in prison. The floor was opened for questions and comments from the committee members.

Chairman Hurley recognized Will Jones, Chief of Program Services, Eckerd. Mr. Jones provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment 6) on the Overview of Eckerd Services. The floor was opened for questions and comments from the committee members.

There being no further business, Chairman Hurley adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Rep. Pat Hurley, Presiding

Deborah Holder, Committee Clerk